

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 presently appear in this case. No claims have yet been acted upon on the merits. All of the claims have been subject to a restriction requirement. The official action of January 2, 2004, has now been carefully studied. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully urged.

The examiner states that, in view of the amendment filed on October 2, 2003, the previous restriction requirement has been withdrawn. However, the examiner has stated that amended claim 19 is not considered as an original presentation since amended claim 21 and claim 21 in PCT/GB99/03248 are different. Therefore, the examiner has again required restriction among claims 1-20, 22-28, 33 and 34 as follows:

Group I, comprising claims 1-18, drawn to a method for amplification of at least one nucleic acid; and

Group II, comprising claims 19, 20, 22-28, 33 and 34, drawn to a plurality of different nucleic acid templates (claims 19, 20 and 22-24), a solid support (claims 25-28), and a kit for use in nucleic acid amplification or sequencing (claims 33 and 34).

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I for examination.

Claims 19, 20, 22-28, 33 and 34 have been deleted without prejudice toward the prosecution thereof in one or more divisional applications.

Appln. No. 09/806,531

Amdt. dated February 2, 2004

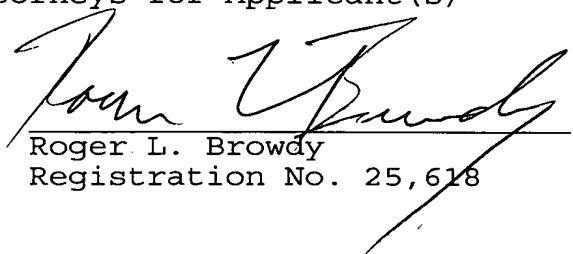
Reply to Office action of September 2, 2003

It is submitted that all of the claims now present in the case are now in condition for examination and allowance. Prompt consideration on the merits and allowance are, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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